

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 L-03 ACDA-05 ORM-02 AID-05 EB-07

IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AGR-05

DPW-01 OMB-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /127 W

----- 114936

R 121420Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5602

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, LT, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - LESOTHO

REF: STATE 45319, MASERU A-5

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CONTAINED IN  
MASERU A-5.

2. WITH NO ACTIVE CONSTITUTION OR WRITTEN BILL OF RIGHTS, LESOTHO  
LACKS BASIC LEGAL GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SERIOUS VIOLATIONS  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE OCCURRED DURING PAST TWO YEARS, BUT NO CON-  
SISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS HAS EMERGED. FACTORS SUCH AS  
A GENUINE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ABSTRACT AND AN  
INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY ACT AS CONSTRAINTS AGAINST GROSS VIOLATIONS.

3. GOVERNMENT GENERALLY ABIDES BY MOST PROVISIONS OF UDHR.  
MORE COMMON VIOLATIONS ARE ARRESTS WITHOUT CHARGES UNDER 60 DAY  
DETENTION PROVISION OF INTERNAL SECURITY ACT. IN ORDINARY TIMES,  
VIOLATIONS ARE RELATIVELY RARE. WHEN GOVERNMENT HAS FELT ITSELF  
THREATENED BY SUBVERSION, HOWEVER, WIDESPREAD SERIOUS VIOLATIONS  
HAVE OCCURRED, INCLUDING KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, TORTURE,  
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ARBITRARY DETENTION, AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

4. IN WAKE OF VIOLENCE, GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED, ALBEIT TARDILY, TO BRING POLICE, WHICH ARE USUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, UNDER DISCIPLINE. AT TOP LEVEL, GOVERNMENT LEADERS APPEAR GENUINELY COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARE SENSITIVE TO OUTSIDE CRITICISM. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS TO GOL OFFICIALS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, INFORMATION CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS - LESOTHO  
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**To:** STATE  
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